



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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To: School Administrators

From: Cindy Bryant, DESE Mathematics Consultant

Re: K-12 Math Learning Goals

Recent state and national initiatives have prompted the call for the development of new K-12 mathematics goals, to replace the existing grade-level expectations (GLE) document. These initiatives include:

- The governor's METS Alliance has recommended changes in the GLEs for math and science in order to support "inquiry-based instruction based on internationally recognized best practices."
- The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Achieve, The College Board and others are calling for changes in K-12 math standards.
- Recent state law (Senate Bill 389), which requires the Department of Higher Education to develop entry-level competencies for college courses.

These factors have prompted the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in concert with the METS Alliance, to develop a new document, *Missouri K-12 Mathematics Learning Goals*. The document will identify critical ideas, knowledge and skills and provide foundations for further mathematical learning. It will communicate the goals of required annual assessments and serve as a guide for schools in updating and aligning their mathematics programs.

This effort is co-chaired by Cindy Bryant, DESE mathematics consultant, and Barbara Reys, professor of mathematics at the University of Missouri. Writers of the new document include K-12 teachers, curriculum coordinators and university faculty. We expect a draft copy of the goals to be ready for public review in March, and we hope to present a final version to the State Board of Education in September, 2008.

For more information about the development of the math learning goals visit, <http://mets-dese-mathematics.missouri.edu> or contact Cindy Bryant (cindy.bryant@dese.mo.gov).